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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,934	04/19/2001	Garry Van Houten	LII161A US	8324

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EXAMINER	
STORMER, RUSSELL D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3617

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/837,934	Applicant(s) Van Houten et al
Examiner Russell D. Stormer	Art Unit 3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on the amendment filed November 13, 2002.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-6, 9, 11, 15-19, and 21-28 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 7, 8, 10, 12-14, and 20 is/are objected to.
8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 11/13/02 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In line 18 of claim 24 the attaching means appears to be claimed as overlapping the trim ring and the cladding, making it unclear as to whether the attaching means overlaps the trim and the cladding, or the attaching means attaches the trim ring and the cladding to the wheel such that the ring and the cladding are overlapped.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

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(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent; except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Kinstler (newly cited).

With respect to claims 11 and 15, the portion 84 of the trim ring shown in figure 5 is considered to be an annular bead, and would act as a bead to retain a wheel weight clip.

As the trim ring and the cladding are always shown to be overlapped, it must be assumed that they always overlap in the radial direction regardless of tolerance variations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinstler.

For the cladding to be made of plastic would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art because the use of plastic is well-known in this type of wheel cover or cladding, and would result in a lighter and less expensive cover.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinstler in view of Kemmerer et al.

For the trim ring of Kinstler to include complementary interlocking portions on the rim flange and the trim ring would have been obvious based on the teachings of Kemmerer et al. See figures 3, 8, 18, and 19 of Kemmerer et al which show a groove in the rim flange which receives the portion of the cladding which overlaps the rim flange. In the same manner, the trim ring of

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Kinstler could have a lip to be received in a groove formed on the rim flange as this would positively retain the trim ring of Kinstler.

8. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinstler in view of Tully et al.

For the securing means to include an adhesive deposited between the trim ring and the rim flange would have been obvious as taught by Tully et al in order to better retain the trim ring on the wheel.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

The amendments to the claims necessitated the use of the Kinstler patent.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references are cited to show other composite wheels or multi-piece wheel cover assemblies.

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12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

January 24, 2003


RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
24/03